

# Adult clubs may face lawsuits

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Adult entertainment clubs that use fax machines and secretaries to lure white-collar customers may prove ripe grounds for lawsuits, legal experts say.

The problem is that many businesswomen feel uncomfortable in places like The Men's Club, one of the city's newest topless clubs.

"If a company, by reimbursing expenses, supports its people doing business in topless clubs under the guise of that's where their clients like to go, in essence they're saying that a man must be the one who handles the business," said Norman Werback, a principal in the Dallas workplace consulting firm Werback-Rose.

"And the law says business can't be directed in other directions based on sex," Werback said.

The issue hasn't been tested in court.

"Whether just going to a topless bar is enough for a sexual harassment suit is debatable," said Southern Methodist University law

professor Jane Dolkart. "More likely it would be part of an allegation of a hostile environment rather than the sole factor in bringing such a lawsuit."

After a Conoco Inc. employee charged \$22,600 to the company at a Houston topless

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—Jane Dolkart, Southern Methodist University law professor

club two years ago, the oil company started paying more attention to such expenses.

Jim Felder, Conoco's manager of public relations, said he turned down some expense accounts charged in topless clubs.

"It's not the type of expense that I felt

would reflect well on Conoco," Felder said.

But club patrons and owners say the clubs offer a sophisticated, relaxed environment conducive to business. Female executives should feel comfortable there, they say.

And some do.

Sarah Powers, a Houston real estate lawyer, ended up at Cabaret Royale in Dallas one night with an out-of-state client.

"I was the only woman in the place who wasn't working, but I didn't care," Powers said. "If the guys were going, I was going to go, too."

The high prices such clubs charge — \$3 for a soft drink — don't turn off patrons.

"If you're making a deal for a hundred bucks, go to the Waffle House," said Wesley Miller, the 51-year-old owner of a small Dallas company who on a recent Wednesday sat at a table at The Men's Club with scantily-clad women draped on each arm.

"If you're looking for a bigger deal, you come here."

# Bush, Clinton face off on national TV

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush and Bill Clinton competed on national television Sunday for voters' trust to revive the anemic economy. The Democrat promised a jobs package as his first move while the president blamed sluggish growth on "the gridlock Congress" blocking his economic plan.

Both also were questioned about past actions that could prove a major force in the campaign. And both said they expected debates, although Bush again

shied away from a three-debate plan Clinton said he eagerly accepted.

For Clinton, the nagging episode from his past was his avoidance of the draft during the Vietnam War; for Bush, the subject was new questions about his knowledge of the Reagan administration's arms-for-hostages dealings with Iran.

But as it does on the campaign trail, the economy dominated the debate as Clinton and Bush appeared for rare, live 10-minute interviews on an NBC election spe-

cial. "Pass a jobs program," Clinton said in listing his first priority if elected. Controlling health care costs would be second, he said.

"I don't pretend that it is going to be easy or quick," the Arkansas governor said. Still, "We can cut (the deficit) in half in the next four years if we have real discipline."

Bush said he believed the majority of Americans were better off than four years ago, although he conceded, "Certainly anyone who is out of work cannot say he is better off."

Still, the president blamed the Democratic-controlled Congress for refusing to pass a Bush administration package he said contained the incentives businesses need to buy new equipment and hire more workers.

"What we're trying to do is turn things around and get peo-

ple back to work," Bush said from Michigan. "The gridlock Congress said, 'No.' . . . I have been stymied in those incentives and more by the Congress."

The Labor Department last week said there were fewer private-sector jobs in August than when Bush took office. But the president said he was "not prepared to buy into those statistics. I'm not sure there are fewer people at work."

Bush also sought to convey the sense that the economy, despite the sour government figures, was on the upswing.

When anchorman Tom Brokaw said Clinton's answers about his draft status were "inconsistent," Clinton retorted that he had never changed his story — but acknowledged, "Maybe I haven't handled it as well as I should."

# Production continues at GM plant following nine-day walkout

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LORDSTOWN, Ohio — Employees of a General Motors Corp. parts plant returned to work Sunday for their first full day of production after ending a strike that idled about 40,000 workers at GM assembly plants.

Nine assembly plants that depend on the Lordstown factory for parts were forced to stop production or shut down after the strike began Aug. 27. The assembly plants don't stockpile parts.

The 2,400 members of United Auto Workers Local 1714 in this northeastern Ohio town returned to work late Saturday after ratifying an agreement to end their nine-day walkout.

GM said it would focus on resupplying parts to resume production of its popular Saturn, built in Spring Hill, Tenn. Saturn spokesman Bill Betts said full production of 1993 models would resume Tuesday.

About 700 workers at a plant in Kingston-Warren, Tenn., which makes rubber moldings that go around car windows, could return Thursday or Friday, said plant manager Doug Losey.

GM plants in Baltimore and Wilmington, Del., also won't reopen until at least midweek, union officials said.

About 98 percent of the 800 Local 1714 members who voted

approved the new contract Saturday.

The agreement saves 240 tool-and-die jobs that GM wanted to eliminate at the Lordstown plant and ensures that 160 vacancies at the plant will be filled by GM workers laid off elsewhere, said Dave Fascia, who headed the union's negotiating team.

About 140 new positions will be created because of increased production of GM's Saturn and J cars, he said. J cars include the Chevrolet Cavalier and Pontiac Sunbird built at the adjacent Lordstown assembly plant.

Linda Cook, a spokeswoman for GM, said the agreement doesn't hurt the company's plans for restructuring. GM announced last year it will close 21 plants and eliminate about 60,000 hourly positions in the United States and Canada by 1995.

She said that while employees at the tool and dye plant won't be laid off, their work will be transferred outside the state. She said the workers will be retrained or transferred.

Other plants affected by the strike are located in Oklahoma City; Wentzville, Mo.; Flint, Mich.; Orion Township, Mich.; Lansing, Mich.; and the Lordstown assembly plant.

# Arkansas reverend arrested protesting Clinton's positions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — For the second time in two Sundays, police arrested demonstrators outside the church regularly attended by Gov. Bill Clinton.

Police spokesman Lt. Charles Holladay said Sunday that police arrested 27 demonstrators, including Rev. W.N. Otwell of the God Said Ministries in Nacogdoches, Texas. Holladay said all were charged with criminal trespassing and given citations to appear in court Sept. 14.

Otwell had led a group of protesters outside Immanuel Baptist Church, where Democratic presidential nominee Clinton is a member.

As he was escorted from the church grounds, Otwell told Little Rock television station KARK, "It's a sad day in this country when we've come to the place

where churches have to miss their own services on Sunday morning to come to stand up against wickedness at someone else's church because they refuse to stand up."


Otwell also was arrested last Sunday after he refused to stay off of church property, police said.

The protesters have denounced Clinton's position on abortion and women's and gay rights. They also have criticized the church for allowing the governor to remain a member.

Holladay said that church members had asked the police to keep the demonstrators from disrupting church services. He said both plain clothes and uniformed officers were at the church Sunday when they arrested demonstrators. Police said the demonstrators had entered a roped-off area where they weren't allowed.

Holladay said no violence occurred during the incident.

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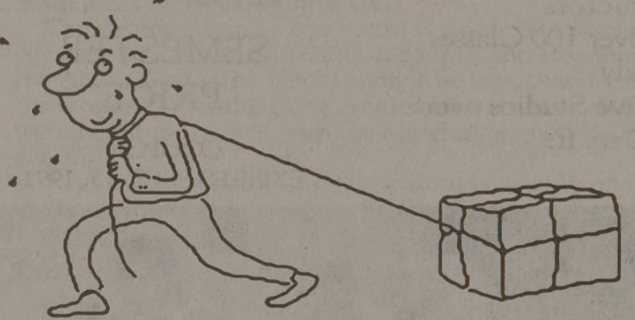
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